

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08496 222225Z

64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 CU-05 AID-20 DRC-01 /078 W

----- 083059

R 221800Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, EAID, US, LE, JO, SY, SA, YE, LY, KU

SUBJECT: AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB) EXPELLS 103, WARNS 150

SUMMARY: AUB HAS SENT LETTERS EXPELLING APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS AND PLACING 150 OTHERS ON WARNING. STORY HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED ATTENTION ONLY IN LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY. PRIOR TO DISPATCH OF LETTERS, PRESIDENT FRANGIE ENDORSED AND ENCOURAGED THIS ACTION. END SUMMARY

1. AUB ADMINISTRATION SENT LETTERS OF EXPULSION FRIDAY JULY 19 TO MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS INVOLVED IN LAST SPRING'S STUDENT DISTURBANCES AND LETTERS OF WARNING TO APPROXIMATELY 150 OTHERS. EXPULSIONS ARE EXPLAINED IN LETTERS AS RESULT OF STUDENTS' FAILURE, BY THEIR "ACTIONS DURING THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR," TO COMPLY WITH AUB'S "STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR STUDENTS."

2. BREAKDOWN OF SUSPENDED STUDENTS BY NATIONALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

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LEBANON 43

SYRIA 4

US 2

PALESTINIANS 2 AND ONE EACH FROM SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN, LIBYA AND KUWAIT. ONE ADDITIONAL STUDENT OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY WAS ALSO INCLUDED. THESE STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR READMISSION AND THEIR STATUS IN THE UNIVERSITY ENDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1974.

3. FEATURE STORY, BASED ON RECEIPT OF LETTERS BY SOME EXPELLEES, APPEARED IN JULY 21 ISSUE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY STAR. ARTICLE QUOTES SEVERAL FORMER AUB STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS CHARGING THAT MOVE BY UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION WAS DIRECTED MAINLY AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND THAT USG PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN SUSPENSION DECISION. ONE INTERVIEWEE QUOTED AS STATING "THIS HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN ENGINEERED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, IN COLLUSION WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT."

4. COMMENT: AUB PRESIDENT KIRKWOOD TELLS US TODAY THAT, PRIOR TO TAKING ACTION, HE INFORMED GOL MINED RIZK AND LATTER CONCURRED BUT WISHED CHECK WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND GOL. QUESTION WAS RAISED AT JULY 17 CABINET MEETING AND KIRKWOOD SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THAT PRESIDENT AND GOL NOT ONLY IN ACCORD WITH AUB ACTION BUT ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED IT. CONFIRMATION FRANGIE'S VIEWS ALSO OBTAINED BY SENIOR AUB OFFICER. AUB, THEREFORE, INDEED ACTING WITH KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF HIGHEST CIRCLES GOL AND, THEREFORE, FROM POSITION OF GREATER STRENGTH THAN WAS THE CASE IN 1972 WHEN EXPELLEES WERE EVENTUALLY REINSTATED UNDER GREAT PRESSURE. ALTHOUGH KIRKWOOD ATTEMPTED MEET WITH AMBASSADOR IN LATTER PART LAST WEEK, IT WAS ONLY TODAY THAT MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED. KIRKWOOD EXPLAINED FOREGOING TO AMBASSADOR WHO EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT.

5. WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS, EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THEY INVOLVED IN DISRUPTION OF UNIVERSITY, SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF AFFECTED STUDENTS PROBABLY OF PALESTINIAN ORIGIN. LARGE NUMBER THOSE LISTED PARA 2 ABOVE AS JORDANIANS PROBABLY WEST BANKERS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, POSSESS SUFFICIENT INFO TO ASSESS PERCENTAGE PALESTINIANS INVOLVED.

6. WE SEEKING DETERMINE NUMBER USAID SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS WHO MAY BE INVOLVED IN SUSPENSION. AUB WILL FURNISH BREAKDOWN ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS BASIS ASAP.
GODLELY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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